

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention features retina-derived (retinal endothelial or retinal epithelial pigment) cell lines with extended life-span and capable of being implanted in the retina and of carrying a therapeutic substance to the eye and to the central nervous system. Such 5 lines can also be used as a model for studying blood central nervous system interfaces.

These lines are derived from primary retinal cultures selected from the group consisting of primary retinal endothelial cells and primary retinal epithelial cells, comprise a polynucleotide containing an oncogene, which polynucleotide is optionally associated with at least one selection gene, and have the morphological characteristics and at least the 10 expression characteristics of the surface antigens of corresponding primary cultures.

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